

**Department of Environmental Quality
The Dow Chemical Company
Community Advisory Committee Proposal
June 23, 2005**

Purpose

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in cooperation with The Dow Chemical Company (Dow), proposes the establishment of a multi-stakeholder advisory group, to be known as the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is to act as a focal point for community involvement related to corrective actions by Dow to address historical dioxin/furan releases in the Midland, Saginaw, and Bay City area (tri-cities area). The role of the CAC is to advise the DEQ and Dow on:

1. Community sentiment about corrective action activities in the tri-cities area,
2. The adequacy of efforts to inform the community about the corrective action process and pending decisions, and
3. Whether or not public input has been adequate to move forward.

As envisioned, the CAC will assist resolution of the tri-cities area dioxin/furan situation in a way that provides significant benefits for the public, the environment, the state, and Dow.

Principles of Operation

The CAC will operate according to the following principles:

- Inclusiveness – Ensure that a wide range of perspectives is represented at the table and that all participants are actively engaged.
- Accountability - Use transparent and democratic methods for engaging participants.
- Ownership – Generate recommendations that have broad support.
- Equity – Value everyone’s contribution so that all participants have equal access to information.
- Governance – Establish clear standards of participation in the process.
- Learning – Encourage participants to learn of each other’s interests and perspectives.

- Legitimacy – Expect that participants will abide by the Principles of Operation.
- Transparency – Effectively inform other community members of its activities.

Membership

The DEQ and Dow envision a CAC membership structure ensuring that a wide range of perspectives is represented. To ensure effective participation, the CAC is proposed to be limited to 16 members: 4 from the Midland area, 4 from the Tittabawassee River/upper Saginaw River area, 4 from lower Saginaw River/Bay City area, and 4 “community-at-large” members. Members would be asked to serve a minimum of two years. It is proposed that the CAC have a rotating membership structure. No specific form to this rotational structure is suggested at this time, but the DEQ and Dow believe it should provide for some degree of both continuity and freshness.

Members also must commit to active participation and to staying engaged with their primary constituencies throughout their term of service. The CAC will conduct a minimum of four meetings annually, including one meeting for a primary purpose of updating the community on its activities. It is anticipated that some work between meetings will be necessary to help inform the community of pending activities and decisions, as well as to maintain contact with primary constituencies. CAC members should be able to participate in a two-day orientation retreat during the fall of 2005.

Members of the CAC will serve as volunteers, although prior-approved expenses will be reimbursed.

The DEQ and Dow will not be members of the CAC but will be present at meetings and will serve as resources to the CAC.

Operation of the CAC

It is proposed that the CAC will be responsible for determining operational matters in consultation with the DEQ and Dow. Operational matters include the structure of the CAC, the timing of meetings, meeting agendas, rotational structure, and other associated activities.

A professional facilitator will be provided to facilitate all CAC meetings. The facilitator will also assist with meeting planning, agenda development, meeting facilitation, and publishing the meeting record and other CAC communications as necessary.

From time to time, the CAC may request an expert to help it interpret data, understand various aspects of the remediation process, or make public presentations to explain technical aspects of pending activities or decisions. These experts will be selected from a list mutually acceptable to the CAC, the DEQ, and Dow.

The CAC meetings will be professionally recorded and transcripts made available through a variety of mechanisms to ensure easy access for other interested parties. Comments made by CAC members will be attributed to them.

All meetings of the CAC will be open to public observers and the media. It is expected that each CAC meeting will include an agenda item for public comment.

Initial Selection Process for CAC Members

It is proposed that the initial selection of CAC members be carried out by a three- or five-member selection committee drawn from the tri-cities area. The DEQ and Dow will specifically seek comment on this selection process, as well as the method for choosing members of the selection committee, during the upcoming round of CAP and townhall meetings to be conducted during the summer of 2005. A position on the selection committee will be voluntary, although prior-approved expenses will be reimbursed. Members of the selection committee will not be eligible to serve on the CAC.

It is anticipated that the selection committee will develop an application for participation on the CAC in consultation with the DEQ and Dow. The goal of the selection committee will be to ensure that a wide range of perspectives is represented on the CAC within identified selection criteria.

The selection committee will use a variety of outlets to advertise the selection process for the CAC and to make applications available. Individuals may nominate themselves or others, but each nomination must be accompanied by an application. The selection committee may use the applications and other methods appropriate to make the final selections.

As a group, the members selected for the CAC should have broad acceptance within the tri-cities area.

Funding

Dow will provide funding for prior-approved expenses related to the selection process and the various aspects of operating the CAC as part of its corrective action obligations.